

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 00867 161551Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 SP-02 INR-10
INRE-00 IO-13 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 /051 W
-----045090 161615Z /46

O 161525Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6825
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 0867

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT LE
SUBJ: SITUATION IN LEBANON; AFTERMATH OF FURN ASH-SHEBBAK
INCIDENT

REF: BEIRUT 0854

1. AS OF 1700 LOCAL SYRIAN ULTIMATUM HAS NOT BEEN PUT INTO
EFFECT AND SHELLING OF FURN ASH-SHEBBAK HAS NOT STARTED.
CONTRARY TO EARLIER IMPRESSION, IT APPEARS THAT FURN ASH-SHEBBAK
IS NOT BUTTONED UP AND LIFE CONTINUING NORMALLY.

2. BASHIR GEMAYEL HAS CALLED ME PERSONALLY TO DENY ANY
KATA'IB INVOLVEMENT IN INCIDENT AND HE AND HIS FATHER HAVE
CALLED OUR PRINCIPAL FSL TO SAY THAT SHEIKH PIERRE TOLD
SARKIS KATA'IB NOT RESPONSIBLE. THEY CLAIM SHOOTING AROSE
FROM DISPUTE OVER RADIO WHICH SYRIANS HAD STOLEN AND THAT
ASSAILANTS WERE PEOPLE ON THE STREET, NOT MEMBERS OF KATA'IB.

3. WE UNDERSTAND MILITARY PROSECUTOR IS INVESTIGATING INCIDENT
AND PERHAPS WAY HAS BEEN FOUND TO ASSURE SYRIANS THAT
ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE TO BRING CULPRITS TO JUSTICE. WE
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SHALL SEE.

4. SUBSEQUENT TO DRAFTING ABOVE, TALKED TO PRESIDENT
CHAMOUN WHO SAID HE AND PIERRE GEMAYEL HAD AGREED WITH
PRESIDENT THAT THEY WOULD ASSIST SYRIANS IN APPREHENDING
CULPRITS OF FURN ASH-SHEBBAK INCIDENT. I ASKED IF HE
HAD ANY SUSPECTS IN MIND AND HE SAID THE SYRIANS HAD SOME

NAMES. HE ALSO AGREED TO GET ARMED MEN OFF THE STREETS
IN FURN ASH-SHEBBAK AND AYN AR-RAMMANNAH. I ASKED IF THIS
WAS DO-ABLE AND HE SAID IT WAS, AT LEAST AS FAR AS MAIN
ROAD IN FURN ASH-SHEBBAK WAS CONCERNED. THEY ALSO
ADVISED SYRIANS TO STAY OUT OF BOTH FURN ASH-SHEBBAK AND
AYN AR-RAMMANNAH FOR THEIR OWN SAFETY. HE SAID THAT HE AND
SHEIKH PIERRE HAD SAID THAT CHAMOUNISTS AND PHALANGISTS
WOULD ABIDE BY PROCEDURES OF NEW MIXED TRIBUNAL AND WOULD
COOPERATE WITH IT. I ASKED IF HE THOUGHT SYRIANS WOULD BUY
THIS PACKAGE AND HE SAID HE DID.

5. KEEP TUNED TO THIS STATION.
PARKER

NOTE BY OC/T: DISTRIBUTION COORDINATED WITH MR. HART, S/S-O

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BEIRUT00867
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780071-1115
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780249/aaaabphl.tel
Line Count: 77
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4139dbd5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BEIRUT 854
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3578207
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SITUATION IN LEBANON: AFTERMATH OF FURN ASH-SHEBBAK INCIDENT
TAGS: PINT, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4139dbd5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014